

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 23, 2012

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 137

Introduced by Assembly Member Atkins

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Ammiano, Beall, Bill Berryhill, Block, Blumenfeld, Bonilla, Bradford, Buchanan, Butler, Campos, Carter, Chesbro, Conway, Cook, Dickinson, Donnelly, Eng, Feuer, Fong, Fuentes, Beth Gaines, Galgiani, Garrick, Gatto, Gordon, Grove, Hagman, Halderman, Hall, Harkey, Roger Hernández, Hill, Huber, Hueso, Huffman, Jeffries, Jones, Lara, Logue, Bonnie Lowenthal, Ma, Mansoor, Mitchell, Monning, Morrell, Olsen, Pan, Perea, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Portantino, Silva, Skinner, Solorio, Swanson, Torres, Valadao, Wagner, Wieckowski, Williams, and Yamada)

March 21, 2012

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 137—Relative to West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 137, as amended, Atkins. West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week.

This measure would declare April 22 through April 28, 2012, as West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, West Nile virus is a mosquito-borne disease that
- 2 can result in debilitating cases of meningitis and encephalitis and
- 3 death to humans, horses, avian species, and other wildlife; and

1 WHEREAS, In 2011, West Nile virus resulted in eight human
2 deaths in California and 155 individuals in 23 counties tested
3 positive for the virus, of which 111 developed neuroinvasive
4 disease; and

5 WHEREAS, The State Department of Public Health and the
6 federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention predict West
7 Nile virus will again pose a public health threat in California in
8 2012; and

9 WHEREAS, Adequately funded mosquito and vector control,
10 disease surveillance, and public awareness programs, coupled with
11 best management practices on public and private lands, are the
12 best ways to prevent outbreaks of West Nile virus and other
13 diseases borne by mosquitoes and other vectors; and

14 WHEREAS, Mosquitoes and other vectors, including, but not
15 limited to, ticks, Africanized honeybees, rats, fleas, and flies,
16 continue to be a source of human suffering, illness, and death, and
17 a public nuisance in California and around the world; and

18 WHEREAS, Excess numbers of mosquitoes and other vectors
19 spread diseases, reduce enjoyment of both public and private
20 outdoor living spaces, reduce property values, hinder outdoor work,
21 and reduce livestock productivity; and

22 WHEREAS, Professional mosquito and vector control based
23 on scientific research has made great advances in reducing
24 mosquito and vector populations and the diseases they transmit;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, Established mosquito- and vector-borne diseases
27 such as plague, Lyme disease, and encephalitis, and new and
28 emerging vector-borne diseases such as hantavirus, arenavirus,
29 babesiosis, and ehrlichiosis cause illness and sometimes death
30 every year in California; and

31 WHEREAS, Mosquito and vector control districts throughout
32 the State of California work closely with the United States
33 Environmental Protection Agency and the State Department of
34 Public Health to reduce pesticide risks to humans, animals, and
35 the environment while protecting human health from mosquito-
36 and vector-borne diseases and nuisance attacks; and

37 WHEREAS, The public's awareness of the health benefits
38 associated with safe, professionally applied mosquito and vector
39 control methods will support these efforts, as well as motivate the

1 state and the public to eliminate mosquito and vector breeding
2 sites on public and private property; and

3 WHEREAS, Educational programs have been developed to
4 include schools, civic groups, private industry, and government
5 agencies, in order to meet the public's need for information about
6 West Nile virus, other diseases, and mosquito and vector biology
7 and control; and

8 WHEREAS, Public awareness can result in reduced production
9 of mosquitoes and other vectors on residential, commercial, and
10 public lands by responsible parties, avoidance of the bites of
11 mosquitoes and other vectors when the risk of West Nile virus and
12 other disease transmission is high, detection of human cases of
13 mosquito- and vector-borne diseases that may otherwise be
14 misdiagnosed for lack of appropriate laboratory testing, and the
15 formation of mosquito or vector control agencies where needed;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Public awareness can result in action to provide
18 adequate funding for existing mosquito and vector control agencies
19 or to create control agencies in areas where there are no existing
20 controls; and

21 WHEREAS, West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control
22 Awareness Week will increase the public's awareness of the threat
23 of West Nile virus and other diseases and the activities of the
24 various mosquito and vector research and control agencies working
25 to minimize the health threat within California, and will highlight
26 the educational programs currently available; and

27 WHEREAS, The Mosquito and Vector Control Association of
28 California has designated the week of April 22 through April 28,
29 2012, as West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control
30 Awareness Week in the State of California; now, therefore, be it

31 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
32 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby declares that the
33 week of April 22 through April 28, 2012, be designated as West
34 Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week;
35 and be it further

36 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit a copy
37 of this resolution to the Governor, State Public Health Officer, and
38 the author for appropriate distribution.

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